

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

## MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2005

7:00 p.m.

### ATTENDING

Patricia E. Cornish  
Holly Fechner  
Jodi Finkelstein  
Jodi Grant  
Carol Lynn Green  
Deborah L. Horan  
Shirley L. Johnson  
Regina Oldak  
Tedi S. Osias  
Shelia Parker  
Gary P. Smith  
Yun Jung Yang

### STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers  
Claudia Lujan, Graduate Student Intern  
Judith Vaughan-Prather

### ABSENT

Resa Levy

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## I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF MINUTES...Cornish

President Cornish called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and asked for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported on efforts to prepare packets for the January 30<sup>th</sup> Women's Legislative Briefing. She said that the work was originally scheduled to be done by a group of high school students on Saturday, January 15; however, the snow storm precluded that from taking place. Members of the Women's Legislative Briefing planning committee planned to come to the CFW offices on Tuesday evening, January 26 to work on the packets; however, an area-wide electrical power outage earlier that day, forced the early closing of the CFW office. Several staff members worked on the packets until 5 pm. Ms. Vaughan-Prather said that only 3 members of the planning committee were able to come in this evening to finish work on the packets, so she proposed that the CFW meeting this evening conclude by 8 pm, in order for commissioners to assist in assembling the remaining WLB packets. President Cornish and the Commissioners agreed that this was a good idea.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Horan and unanimously passed, the Minutes of November 17, 2004 were approved as submitted.

## **II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **A. Appointment of New Commissioner**

Commissioner Henderson formally announced her resignation from the CFW, effective after the evening's meeting. She explained that her employer, the Christian Children's Fund, is very involved in the Tsunami relief efforts, and the demands of her job have escalated enormously since the tragedy and are not likely to lessen any time soon. Commissioner Henderson said that with the added demands of her job, it was difficult to find time for anything other than work and family and even that was difficult. She attended the evening's meeting to personally say goodbye to commissioners and staff. She said that she will truly miss serving on the Commission. She has been greatly impressed with the energy in which commissioners work on the issues at hand.

Commissioners understood Ms. Henderson's commitments and expressed their regrets over this unexpected resignation. They wished Ms. Henderson the very best as she worked on the enormous and critical task of providing aid to the youngest victims of the Tsunami.

There are now two vacancies on the Commission for Women, the positions held by Victoria Dolan and, following this evening's meeting, Commissioner Laura Henderson.

President Cornish said that since it was so close to recruitment time for new commissioners, we will wait until then to fill the vacancies. President Cornish noted that there are three commissioners whose terms expire in June 2005 and who are eligible to reapply. They are Commissioners Cornish, Finkelstein and Grant.

Commissioner Grant said that she was also finding it difficult to balance the demands of outside activities along with work and family, and she announced her intent to not seek a second term after June 2005.

Commissioner Green will be completing her second and final term in June, as well.

### **B. Frederick County CFW**

Montgomery County CFW was recently contacted by Evelyn (Bunny) O'Dell, a commissioner with the Frederick County CFW. The group is revitalizing and refocusing its Commission, and invited Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and President Cornish to come to Frederick on January 28 and speak on issues such as the criteria for the selection of new commissioners and Commission priorities, and short-term strategic planning for the commission

C. Nebraska Commission for Women

In 2003, the Nebraska State Legislature stopped funding the Nebraska Commission for Women and the organization has been struggling to stay active. This commission is staffed by a half-time employee and any funding since then has been provided by private donations. To assist with funding, that commission is selling a lapel pin depicting the Sower statue that stands on top of the Nebraska Capitol building. The lapel pins are \$10 each. Commissioner Oldak recommended to the Executive Committee that commissioners each purchase a lapel pin to help out the Nebraska CFW. Thirteen commissioners donated funds to order pins.

D. Website Update

Each CFW committee is asked to review its section of the CFW website and submit any changes, corrections and updated information to staff. All commissioners should also check their biographical information on the web site to make sure that information is accurate and current.

### **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Predatory Lending Bill

Commissioner Johnson reported on the County Council's public hearing on the Predatory Lending Bill. Thirty-three people testified at the December 14, 2004 hearing and Commissioner Johnson's testimony, presented on behalf of CFW, was very well received. Commissioner Johnson said that the County's Health and Human Services' committee scheduled a mark-up session of the legislation on February 14. After lengthy discussion, President Cornish asked that Commissioners Green and Johnson work together to develop draft talking points and to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee what CFW's next steps should be.

B. Preparing for Success

The "Preparing for Success" forum was held November 20, 2004 and was a huge success. Over 250 girls representing very diverse populations of the county attended the forum. The Commission's contribution as a co-sponsor of the event included staff participation in the planning committee and providing two counselors who presented workshops at the event.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items to report under “New Business.”

#### **V. STAFF REPORT**

##### **A. Annual Report Format**

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather explained that staff was working on a new format for the FY04 Annual Report, and she passed around a draft copy for the commissioners’ review. The new formatted version will be 16 pages long and staff is hoping to have it printed by the February CFW meeting.

##### **B. Budget**

On January 20, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, accompanied by Tracy Stuger, Elma Rambo and Claudia Lujan met with the County Executive Douglas Duncan to discuss CFW’s FY 06 budget proposal. Included in the County Executive’s recommendations is a small amount of funding to update the 1994 Status of Women Report. The responsibility for coordinating the project to update the report will fall within the duties of the department’s currently vacant part-time position (see Item E below). The County Executive will also recommended some funds for the summer computer camp scholarship program. The County Executive’s recommendations will next be presented to the County Council for approval.

##### **C. School Girls Unite**

At the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CFW Executive Committee, a decision was made to co-sponsor an upcoming project of the group “School Girls Unite,” which is a non-profit youth activism project developed by ten Montgomery County Public School 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. School Girls Unite is holding an event on February 6, 2005, *Women: Back to the Future!* to raise money to help improve opportunities for education for Mali girls. The CFW’s contribution to the event will be limited to helping publicize the event by sending out announcements to our e-mail distribution list, and possibly posting a small announcement on our website.

##### **D. Prince George’s Commission for Women**

On January 25, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather met with Esther Bullock, Executive Director of the Prince George’s County CFW. The Prince George’s County CFW was interested in learning how the Montgomery County CFW is structured, how priorities are set, and how commission work is formed around the issues.

E. New Position

Staff is preparing the required paperwork to begin the process of filling the new part-time Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordination position.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. IWin Montgomery .....Yang

The Immigrant Women in Montgomery County committee met this evening. Guest attendee, Elizabeth Keyes, an attorney with CASA of Maryland and a Skadden Fellow, spoke about the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights that she drafted for consideration by the County Council. She asked that CFW sign on as a sponsor of the bill. The legislation outlines employment rights for domestic workers of employers with 10 or more workers. Domestic workers are not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Commissioner Oldak moved that CFW send a letter to CASA of Maryland commending it on proposing the legislation and suggesting that further research was needed into the issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Osias. Commissioners Horan and Fechner will draft the letter.

Commissioner Yang reported that final drafts of the “Employment Rights of Pregnant Workers” brochure and the “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace” brochure have been reviewed and will be printed soon in English. The next step will include soliciting funds to print the brochures in the Spanish and Korean languages.

The IWin program's Brave New World project won a 2004 National Association of Counties' Achievement Award, and was recently selected from among the hundreds of such awards given to counties all across the country, to be featured for publication in the January issue of the NACo newsletter. The article will help bring attention to this important issue and will help other counties develop strategies for addressing the needs of immigrant women within their own jurisdictions.

B. Technology and Girls (TAG) .....Smith

The Technology and Girls (TAG) committee met on January 12. Commissioner Smith said that he and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather are still trying to meet with officials at Montgomery College to discuss the 2005 summer computer camp program and whether the college will give a tuition discount.

The TAG committee is creating a survey to send to the girls who have attended the summer computer camps since its inception in 1999. The survey will collect data regarding the impact the camp has had on the girls' lives and educational choices. CFW Intern Claudia Lujan sent Commissioner Smith a compiled listing of all the camp attendees. Commissioner Smith has agreed to confirm current information. Mr. Smith is also planning to meet with the Director of the Statistical Division of

Montgomery County Public Schools to discuss the process of tracking academic data on the girls. The TAG committee hopes to have the survey completed in April, but plans to at least have anecdotal information from the survey in time for CFW's budget session with the County Council.

Commissioner Smith also said that the Committee is on track for installing personal computers in the CFW Emily Edmonson room and getting internet connections for the PCs. He confirmed that the donated PCs will meet the County's specifications.

C. Policy and Legislation (PAL) .....Osias

Commissioner Osias distributed copies of the 2005 CFW Legislative Agenda that outlined each issue, CFW action and status and to which PAL committee member the issues are assigned. A copy of that document is attached to these minutes.

On January 10, President Cornish, accompanied by Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Legislative Specialist Stuger, spoke at a press conference called by County Executive Douglas Duncan in Annapolis, calling for the override of SB 250. The bill to establish a commission to study pay equity in Maryland, was passed overwhelmingly during the 2004 legislative session in Annapolis, but was vetoed by Governor Ehrlich. On January 11, the veto override effort was successful, passing the Senate by a vote of 33 to 14 and passing the House by 92 to 43. The success was due to the efforts of courageous legislators, especially Senator Sharon Grosfeld, County Executive Duncan, and the many phone calls, emails, and letters from women and community activists around the state urging the state legislators to override the veto.

A nine-member commission to study pay equity in Maryland will be appointed by Governor Ehrlich and it will be important for CFW to monitor the formation of this commission.

On January 27, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (M-LAW) is holding a legislative briefing and press conference beginning at 3 pm, at the Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Senate Building's Presidential Suite.

Women's Legislative Briefing .....Parker

Commissioner Parker reported that to date, there were over 500 registrants for the Briefing to be held Sunday, January 30. The opening ceremony will include County Executive Douglas Duncan, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Maryland State Delegate Jean Cryor, and Keynote Speaker Cokie Roberts. Commissioners Grant and Fechner are panelists in the "*Making Work & Women Work*" workshop which is being moderated by President Cornish. Cokie Roberts will be autographing copies of her latest book and the CFW will receive 15% of book sale proceeds.

## **VII. LIAISON REPORTS**

- A. Women's Fair – Commissioner Levy was not in attendance at the meeting due to illness. Commissioners will receive a report on the 2005 Women's Fair at the February CFW meeting.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Commissioner Parker thanked the commissioners for the beautiful "Get-Well" basket she received following her recent surgery.
- B. On January 17, Commissioner Horan participated in a taped interview for a Gazette Newspaper story on the psychology behind rape.
- C. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather taped a Montgomery Week in Review Television show (Cable Channel 21) on January 20. The ½ hour show, hosted by Ken Muir included 3 other guests. Ms. Vaughan-Prather discussed the upcoming Women's Legislative Briefing. The show aired on January 20<sup>th</sup> and will replay on January 28 and January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- D. President Cornish received a letter from Maryland State Delegate Carol Petzold thanking the CFW for its work on the Pay Equity bill. President Cornish also received a letter from Maryland State Delegate Karen Montgomery offering to work on projects together.
- E. The Harford County Commission for Women is holding its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Women's History Month Luncheon on Sunday, March 6, 2005, from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. in Edgewood, Maryland. The \$25 per ticket event is a fundraiser to provide scholarships to outstanding Harford County female students. Call Tina Potts, 410-638-3389 for more information.
- F. The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Maryland NOW are sponsoring Sexual Assault Lobby Day in Annapolis on February 22, 2005. Contact MCASA at 301-565-2277 or [policy@mcasa.org](mailto:policy@mcasa.org).
- G. The D.C. Rape Crisis Center and The Young Women's Project are presenting "I thought you said you loved me..." a teen dating violence conference taking place on March 19, 2005 at George Washington University. The first 100 teen registrants will receive a \$25 stipend. Call Lucane at 202-232-0789, ext. 210 for further information. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will see if the group would like some of CFW's "Talk to Your Daughter" violence prevention materials.
- H. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center and the University of Maryland's Women's Basketball Team are sponsoring a basketball game between two of the country's top ranking women's basketball teams. The Maryland Women Terrapins (Ranked #17) will play the Duke Women Blue-Devils (Ranked #1) on February 13, 2005 at 3 pm at the University of Maryland. A portion of all ticket sales will go to support the

development of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center. Tickets are \$5. For more information contact Linda Shevitz at [lshevitz@msde.state.md.us](mailto:lshevitz@msde.state.md.us) or visit <http://umterps.collegesports.com>.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Commissioners moved to the Rachel Carson Room to help prepare information packets for the January 30 Women's Legislative Briefing.

## **CFW Action and Follow-up Items**

- ☐ 1. Each CFW subcommittee is asked to review its section of the CFW website and submit any changes, corrections and updated information to staff. All commissioners should also check their biographical information on the web site to make sure that information is accurate and current.
- ☐ 2. Commissioner Smith will confirm the address information of all attendees from the Summer Computer Camp for Girls.
- ☐ 3. Commissioners Green and Johnson work together to develop draft talking points and to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee what CFW's next steps should be on the Predatory Lending Legislation.
- ☐ 4. Commissioners Horan and Fechner will draft a letter to CASA of Maryland commending its proposed Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and suggesting that further research may be needed into the issues.
- ☐ 5. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will see if the D.C. Rape Crisis Center would like some of CFW's "Talk to Your Daughter" violence prevention materials.

**Minutes Submitted By**  
**Paula S. Rodgers**  
**Montgomery County Commission for Women**